A Publication of the Bisexual Network of the USA

Winter 1997

The Art of Creating Change: The Conference as Tool

By Lani Ka'ahumanu

When Kerry Lobel called me at home the week before this year's Creating Change Conference I didn't even think twice. Even though I'd only talked with her a couple of times during the previous year's Conference, we chatted like old friends. When I congratulated her on her new position as Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) she thanked me and segued congratulating me. The Task Force was honoring me for me for my longtime service to the bisexual, transgender, lesbian, and gay community. Needless to say, I was speechless, and deeply moved and thanked her. I said that in between "you're kidding me," and "oh my god" and "no you're not kidding me are you?" and other generally dignified phrases befitting an honoree.

One of my first thoughts after I hung up was, "Well I guess I'm no longer the lesbian who fell from grace!" Then in the next moment, the image of Sally Field accepting her Oscar flashed across my mind!: "You like me, you really like me!". I laughed out loud, and was embarrassed at the same time. The truth is, though, even if I am distanced and philosophical now about my bisexual coming out process in 1980, the loss of so many lesbian friends and my political

activist community cut very deep. Unlike my life affirming and supportive lesbian coming out process in 1976, my second coming out was isolating, painful, and confusing. Being a bisexual meant I was a traitor, meant I was no longer trustworthy, meant I was on the outside looking in. So one of the big fat truths about my being honored by NGLTF for 20+ years of b/l/t/g activism and organizing is, I felt an incredible sense of coming home.

This was my fifth annual trek to Creating Change. Held each year in a different city, I've been hooked since my first time, when I realized that the conference itself is an organizing tool which can be used to put the move in our movement. There is nothing like being in the company of 2000+ activists and organizers from around the country: prime time networking, and some of the best flirting you'll find anywhere. What is also true is this conference is a mixed bag. While the highs are really really high, and progress is tangible, the lows really suck big ones (and not in a good way). There is always work to be done. Biphobia, transphobia, sex, race and class issues, and ageism. And the State of Virginia, where the conference was held this year, has "Crimes Against Nature" (sodomy) laws which put a big cramp in my safer sex workshops, but that is another story for another day. Even in the company of some of the most progressive activists, people can shut down with fear, and have major turf and scarcity issues flare up. Internalized oppression is a nasty thing. When I encounter that kind of resistance I always want to say, "Hey, if you are resisting the revolution(s) around you, why come to a conference titled Creating Change?"!

On Thursday night a group of transgender and bisexual people gathered in a hotel room to plan the historic meeting with the gay liaison to the White House, Richard Socarides. This was also an opportunity to talk about the unbelievably ignorant and hurtful remarks that were made by some of the attendees, the workshop and the preconference institute facilitators. As I said. this conference is a mixed bag. After listening and then telling my own horror story, I suggested that we organize a speakout at the plenary just before the main keynote speech on Saturday. We would have a large captive audience and their focused attention. Several years earlier a group of LGBT queer youth had come forward and done a very effective and moving speak-out that had an incredible impact on those assembled and on future conferences. The timing for this action felt

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and a whole lot more!

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BiNet News

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(See Page 10 for contact information)

MARCH SAS MANNE

is in collect and distribute information regarding black active; to facilitate the development of black active community and visibility, to work for the equal rights and liberation of black and all oppressed people's and to condicate all forms of oppression inside and outside the black accommunity. We are communited to being affirmatively inclusive of a multicultural constituency and political agency.

Membership is open to everyone who agrees with our purpose and pays annual dues (or if unable to pay, requests a waiver.) Individuals are asked to contribute \$1 per \$1,000 of yearly income. Groups are asked to contribute \$25-100.

BiNet News is a publication of BiNet USA. It is sent to individuals and groups who have become members of BiNet USA, to Bi and LesBiGay groups in areas with few networking resources, and to groups with whom we are building relations via newsletter exchanges, etc.

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The views of Columnists and or Contributors do not necessarily reflect the views of BiNet USA.

Letters, cartoons, photographs and articles are encouraged and welcome for consideration. Please send to BiNet USA, P.O. Box 73272, Langley Park, MD, 20787-7327

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RANTING FROM THE EDITRIX

Hi Folks!

Once again the mighty wheel of the earth has finished another turn. Its amazing how different cycles come and go in our lives. And how these cycles form an integral part of who and what we are as people. Each day, month and year is often heralded by either a beginning and/or an end of something.

As I look at the Winter 1997 Issue, I am am once again in owe of this publication. Yes, it's not exactly the Advocate, and it's certainly not as jazzy, or as provocative as our sister publication, Anything That Moves. But yet, the BiNet News continues to be the premier bi publication for political and non-political Bi's alike. We have somehow been able to create a synergistic publication that seems to be able to meet the needs of our o' so very diverse community.

In addition, this issue marks my third anniversary as the *BiNet News* Editor... or as we loving call it: *BiNet News* Editrix! Looking back at my 3 years of doing this and all the changes that have occurred in the *BiNet News*, I want to take a moment to thank all of the Editrixes that came before me, and where are they today:

To Cianna Stewart, who was the BiNet News Editor, before there was even a



BiNet USA. Cianna, spent the early years running BiNet USA out of her living room... she is still an incredible activist that devotes her time working with AIDS/HIV in the Asian and Pacific Islander community in San Francisco.

Ben Raviv (formally ben e. factory) who brought his own brand of provocative to the *BiNet News...* who can forget the "naked" issue, where Ben exposed it all! Ben's love of life and intensity for what he believed in has definitely left its mark on many lives, mine included. For those of you that have lost touch with Ben, he's now living on the East Coast pursuing a life long dream of going to Rabbinical school.

Loraine Hutchins (or Rain to everyone), brought her passion for working against racism and oppression to our publication. Rain was always looking for angles to confront the racism and oppression that can exist within our community. In addition she was and continues to be an inspiring writer and contributor to BiNet News... don't miss the excerpt of her interview of NGLTF Executive Director, Kerry Lobel in this issue. You can find the full interview in the new Anything That Moves. Rain continues living in the

DC area and has also gone back to academia, where she is pursuing a degree in Queer Feminist Sacred Sex Studies.

Deb Kolodny is one of the bi activists that has had a tremendous impact on my life. When I became a national coordinator. Deb was the current reigning Editrix (in fact it was Deb that initially created the title). After working a year on the sextet, I decided to take on the responsibility of being the Editor. Well Deb helped out a lot on my first issue and listened to all of grumbling and crying that occurred on a quarterly basis for the rest of that first year. Deb is one of those people who its just so easy to develop a respect for, in all the things she does in her life, you always have a sense of integrity in her work. Deb, I am glad to say is once again a national coordinator, and her energy and vision come at a pivotal time in the growth of organization.

And last but not least, to Gary North, who jumped in during a difficult time in my life and bravely took on two issues of BiNet News. For those of you who don't know Gary. Gary put out one the first Bi publications in the country. He's also still very active in the Long Beach, CA bi community, and is one of the unrelenting workhorses in putting together the Annual Southern California Conference on Bisexuality.

As always the *BiNet News* is a labor of love and teamwork... and its history certainly shows that! My thanks to the Staff of *BiNet News*: Wendy, Eve and Gerard. To our two columnists: Lani and Fritz... who put up with my deadlines and re-writes and of course to all of the wonderful contributors!

Well, I gotta run... If you want to call or send me stuff, you'll find my phone and address in the Contact Pages or you can e-mail me at:

<alexei_guren@msn.com>



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The Right's New Sound Bite

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Homophobia is an ever-changing foe. It shifts its form as society changes and as our movement progresses. Forty years ago, homophobia expressed itself through massive police harassment. Raids of lesbian and gay bars were common fare in U.S. cities; sometimes hundreds of folks were arrested on a single night in a single city. Today, police harassment hasn't stopped, but it is no longer the primary way we experience a lack of personal safety. Instead, homophobia displays itself through hate-motivated violence randomly directed at gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people.

Similarly, the content of political homophobia shifts with the changing political landscape. In the first half of the 1990s, the right wing coined the message of "special rights" as a way of rousing their forces and creating confusion among the many wellmeaning Americans who ought to be our allies. "Special rights" was employed in support of antigay ballot measures in Colorado, Oregon, and Maine. It was used to drive a wedge between our movement and the African-American civil rights community. It played upon irrational fears of a powerful "homosexual lobby" trying to win extra privileges for itself.

"Special rights" hasn't vanished entirely, but the failure of the ballot initiative tactic, especially in the wake of Governor Romer of Colorado's decision, has weakened its effectiveness. But not to worry. Rightwing ideologues are hard at work refining new slogans designed to confuse Americans and inflame the passions of their constituents.

What's their newest one? "Judicial tyranny."

I started noticing it a year ago as the political campaign season was beginning. Republican candidates, from Dole to Buchanan, threw out the phrase now and then. But in the wake of Judge Kevin Chang's historic ruling in the Hawaii same-gender marriage case, the slogan has become a mantra. In a recent debate on CNN about the decision. Andrea Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition repeated it again and again. Each time her arguments were successfully challenged, she came back with "judicial tyranny." I expect we'll be hearing more of it.

As used by the right wing, "judicial tyranny" is an especially dangerous political idea. It is much more than a weapon of homophobia. It attacks the very foundations of our political system, threatening the democratic rights and freedoms that make dissent possible.

The U.S. Constitution rests on a system of checks and balances. Three branches of government -- a legislature, executive, and judiciary -- are each given different powers, so that no one part of the government can amass too much power. The federal system has been copied by each of the fifty states.

Why did the framers of the Constitution do it this way? For two reasons. First, they had just fought a war against colonial rule, in which they felt themselves subject to tyrannical rule at the hands of the King's appointed officials. So, they wanted to make sure that power was spread between an executive and an elected legislature. Second, they worried about the destructive effects of popular passions. They created checks and balances, and especially a judiciary designed to comment on the constitutionality of laws, because they were most concerned

about the tyranny of the majority!

In other words, the judiciary exists precisely as a check against the will of the majority, when the majority threatens constitutional rights and privileges. Its role, in part, is to make sure that the rights of unpopular minorities are not trampled upon by a majority whose prejudices have been inflamed. So, when judges do something like overturning a law or a ballot measure supported by the majority of voters or elected officials, they are not behaving like tyrants. They are doing their jobs.

"Judicial tyranny" as a concept is insidious. It creates a climate of hostility toward the proper workings of our Constitution. It makes judges the target of popular anger, and indirectly attempts to intimidate them. It builds support for efforts at the state level -- and even nationally -- to call a constitutional convention or recklessly amend the constitution which, in the context of the extremist right's current power, is truly frightening.

"Judicial tyranny" is politically shrewd. It has the power to weld together religious extremists and political conservatives; it speaks to resentments about race, gender, and sexual identity; it appeals to a business community annoyed by judicial decisions that protect the environment.

The slogan "judicial tyranny" is also hypocritical and cynical. Right-wing conservatives claim to speak in defense of tradition. But there is hardly anything more traditional in the United States than the independence of our judiciary.

So, when you hear the phrase, don't let it slip by. Recognize it and expose it for what it is: the latest right-wing sound bite, designed to confuse, manipulate, and mobilize.

(Continued from page 1) right to me.

I volunteered to ask Kerry for the floor time to make a public statement and we (Shannon Minter of National Center for Lesbian Rights; Dominique Leslie, a bisexual MTF transgender AIDS activist: Gerard Palmieri, BiNet USA activist; Mark Silver, editor of Anything That Moves; James Green, Yosenio Lewis, Shadow Morton and Marcus de Maria Arana of FTM International, Inc.: Marcella Bucknam, Regional Organizer of BiNet USA; HIV/AIDS educator and theater director Cianna Stewart; and Stephanie Berger, Kris Roehling and Alexei Guren, National Coordinators of BiNet USA) brainstormed the tone of the statement, and the points we wanted to make. James and Shadow took our ideas and left to write up the first draft. Upon their return we sang "Happy 48th Birthday" to James. Dominique and Gerard came forward to read and Cianna suggested that Jennifer Haeiin Kim, a Korean-American bi dyke youth activist from Atlanta, also be a speaker. With minor suggestions from those present, Cianna took on the task of giving the statement a final tweak with her professional eye for dramatic 2 presentation in three parts.

I talked with Kerry Lobel about what bi and trans folks were dealing with, and that we wanted time to speak out during the main plenary. She agreed without hesitation. On Saturday, outgoing Executive Director Melinda Paras introduced the representatives from the bisexual and transgender community.

Dominique:

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has proactively and powerfully emphasized that the issues of the bisexual and transgender communities are the issues of the gay and lesbian communities. We would like to acknowledge the NGLTF staff for their inclusionary efforts. And we would like to let you see who we are. Would all the bisexual, transgender and intersexed people in the room please come forward so that we can all see you?

(10-15 seconds silence)

Like a giant tsunami, wave upon wave of bisexual, transgender and intersexed people came forward. The steady flow of people inspired and gave courage to others who then stood up and joined the rising tide. Numbers beyond our wildest dreams! Twenty five percent of the people in the room were standing in the front facing the audience, who by then were giving us a standing ovation.

Dominique:

In spite of NGLTF's efforts, we have been marginalized, scapegoated, and felt prejudice against us during conference. During many of the workshop sessions and institutes. bisexual. transgender, and intersexed people have been silenced or ignored. This weekend, by other activists, bisexual men have been accused of spreading AIDS. This weekend, by other activists, transsexual people have been accused of being heterosexual assimilationists. This weekend, by other activists, bisexual women have been asked to identify themselves as lesbians or not include themselves in the group. Our queer identities have been denied, overlooked, and dismissed.

Gerard:

In one session, a bisexually-identified transsexual man asked why the presenter did not include bisexual and transgender people in his presentation. Rather than respond, the presenter thanked the transman for his question, then turned away and said, "but I just noticed some of my friends have arrived, and I think it is important for me to say hello to them." When he was challenged further, the presenter said that it was not his issue.

Dominique:

During a workshop on custody issues, a bisexual woman identified herself and her custody issues during the introductions, and was told that the session would not address the custody issues of bisexual or transgender people. She felt that she was being asked to leave, so she did.

Jen:

During the youth sessions, I identified myself as a Korean-American bi-dyke queer, and was told that the people of color institute had happened the day before, and we were to leave those issues at the door. When I attended the queer youth of color institute, the facilitators included only lesbian and gay when they were speaking. I felt as if I had been denied the right to be present.

Gerard:

In another workshop, a transsexual man of color was attempting to illustrate his experience of racism by tying it to his gender issues. He was cut off in midsentence and told that by bringing up gender, he was diverting the discussion away from racism.

Dominique:

The NGLTF has been incredibly supportive throughout this conference, and were generous in giving us this time to speak out. Those of you who have supported us in the past, those of you who have spoken up for us when we were not present or were unable to speak for ourselves, and those of you who have said the words "bisexual and transgender" during this conference, we now invite you to stand up and be visible to us, as we have been visible to you.

Gerard:

We would like all of you who are still seated to consider this challenge: The people standing around you have had the courage to acknowledge our presence in our queer community. They have come to understand that we have been named by our common enemies. We ask all of you who are seated to remember to say the words "transgender and bisexual," to learn to understand our issues as your own, to speak out for us as we have all spoken out for you. Please show your solidarity with bisexual, transgender, and intersexed people who are fighting for the rights of all queer people, and stand with us now.

Yes, a few people remained seated, but for anyone in that room, especially those of us who were standing, our lives and our sense of community has been forever transformed. Yes, the challenges and opportunities of Creating Change puts the "move" in this movement of ours. And as far as the awards ceremony on Sunday—what can I say, the conference wasn't over 'til the bisexual got her award. •

YE OLDE MAILBAG

Dear BiNet.

I just received the Fall Issue of the BiNet News and was glad to see the article "An Exercise on Bisexual Identity." I enjoyed participating in this exercise at the annual meeting (and thank Bipol for the contribution they made to help fund my trip - and of course for providing housing!). This exercise helped me to get to know the minds, the identities, the similarities and the differences between all participants. The enabled me to realize a great sense of empowerment to know that I am not alone in various aspects of being bisexual.

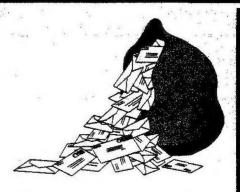
I felt even more empowered by the fact that August 17th, 1996 was proclaimed Bi Pride Day, because it was also my 30th birthday! Thank you BiNet and BiPol for helping me find like minded souls. I am forever grateful for the experience I had at the annual meeting (and specifically grateful for helping me find new bisexual friends in my area!

I am also writing to share a poem I hope you will print in the next issue of BiNet News.

Ellisa S. Gutierrez

Dear Ellisa,

I'm so glad that you had a wonderful time at the annual meeting... I think we all did. And yes, its wonderful getting to meet folks from all over the country, and its even better when you meet a few from your own backyard! Its because of the wonderful responses like yours that doing things like the annual meeting, and even editing the BiNet News, gives me and other activists an incredible sense of accomplishment and energy. Again thank for your kind words and



support... and hopefully we'll see you again this year in Orlando for the 1997 BiNet USA annual meeting!

Alexei Guren - Editrix

And here's your Poem!:

Por La Alma

I live in all worlds; artistic, cultural, and bisexual.

I want out of the world of scatter and hurry.

Where people are afraid tomorrow has caught them in yesterday.

I want to find a soul(s)
with whom to laugh and cry,
to pass the time together and into each
other.

I want to touch and come with heart.

I want to hear soft words spoken just for me: tasting, savoring, digesting it all.

I want an eager probing tongue and mind exciting, climax and afterglow;

fingers feeling every curve and crevice.

soothing what's left at the end of the day

with a stroking grab and hold eve part giving love and my arms, breast, heart tongue receiving.

GENDER LOBBYING DAYS SET FOR FEBRUARY AND MAY

By Mephanie Berger

"National Gender Lobby Day started in 1995 as a way for all constituencies who are gender-oppressed and are being erased from the national political scene to go up on the Hill and meet with Congress," says Riki Anne Wilchins of GenderPAC. That day in 1995 began with only four transgender activists and two spouses, and followed the next year with over 100 primarily transgender activists from thirty five states. During those two days of lobbying activists met with and educated 510 of the 535 Congressional offices. 1997's two days of lobbying should bring hundreds more to DC.

Education, visibility, lobbying skills building and empowerment are the goals for this year's Gender Lobby Days. "We can all be discriminated against or seen as abnormal or disposable based on our perceived gender or sexual expression, regardless of our actual gender or sexual orientation," says James Green of FTM International. Gender Lobby Day is an opportunity for all people who experience gender-based oppression to express and empower yourselves and your constituencies. It begins with educating Congress. This education process creates an opening so that more queer voices can emerge at the national level, says Wilchins. It is also a wake up call to Congress, "that we pay taxes, we vote, we're in their district and we have concerns which are not being enunciated, much less addressed." The only way to learn Congressional lobbying is to actually do it. The organizers of National Lobby Day hope to create a kind of everything you ever wanted to know about lobbying" with pre-lobby day training.

Last year's Lobby Day mainly focused on Employee Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), health care and hate crimes.

BiNet USA Annual Meeting Agenda (Draft proposal)

BiNet USA Annual Meeting-Friday, June 6, 1997

9-9:15 Welcome

9:15-9:45

Initial exercise which allows everyone to speak and connect with at least a few people they don't know.

9:45-10:15 Spiel on "The State of BiNet"

10:15-10:45 Break

10:45-11:45 Consensus and Overview

What does it mean to be at a BiNet annual meeting, and how does consensus work for new meeting attendees. Advanced consensus for experienced attendees.

11:45-12:30 Vision/craft project

Help people identify where we want BiNet USA to go in the next year--what do we want to create -- in light of our mission, and what we are not yet addressing in that mission.

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00-2:20 Report back on visions

2:20-4:00 Initiative and other Workshops

Challenges, needs, next steps, and policy matters or proposals which need to be discussed in the meeting.

These will be, at a minimum:

Rural Initiative
Fundraising Initiative
Youth Initiative
Technology Resource Initiative
Transgender Initiative
General Policy Matters
Others??

4:00-4:30 Break 4:30-6:00

Present decision items. (Limited to presentation and clarification only)

So far, we know that the following could be presented:

ATM merger
Bi Hotline
BiNet Annual Meeting 1998 site
(International Conference in Boston)
ILGA Membership
NGLTF Board Membership
Any additional proposals coming
from Initiatives, Members, Regional
Organizers or National Coordinators

Day 2 - Saturday, June 7th, 1997

Bi Day at Disney!

Day 3 -Sunday, June 8th, 1997

10:00-10:30 Opening: fun and light

10:30-12:00 Decision making on proposals.

12:00-1:30 Lunch

1:30-2:30

Report backs from the Initiatives and the Regional Organizers

Done using some kind of creative format--either skits, or a poem, or song, or an interview, or simulating a website, or something like that. Each group will get 5 minutes to report. Each region gets 3 minutes.

2:30-3:15 Decision making, continued

3:15-3:45 Break

3:45-4:30 Decision making, continued

4:30-5:00 Close

Something light and fun to end the meeting: music, dance singing-something that helps us ground and connect.

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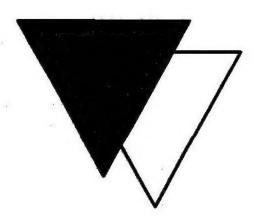
Robyn Ochs, editor

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BRC PO Box 639 Cambridge MA 02140, USA



Regional News

Regional News Editor Wendy Nanmann

Regional Organizers and members can send in Regional News pieces and Regional Reports directly to:

Wendy Naumann 1626 D Street, #304, Lincoln, NI 68502 (402)476-0314 (same)

for you virtual reality Bi's you can also e-mail: wnaomann a unfinfo unl edu

(Editrix note. Wendy asks that whenever possible to send her stuff via e-mail.)



Bi visibility is increasing in the Northeast Region, in particular in the state of Vermont. Vermont BiNet may be working with the Men's Health project in order to address the health needs of bisexual men. A bi discussion group is being formed in Burlington and monthly tea gatherings are currently the happening place to be. There is a bisexual member of the board of the Vermont Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Rights. Monthly meetings for BiNet VT are happening very last Saturday of the month. The region is still looking for a third regional organizer, preferably from Maine or New Hampshire, but as Kirsten put it, "Western Mass. and/or Rhode Island would be groovy, too".

Tri-State Region

Tri-State Region is planning a second annual gathering which we hope to call a conference and is currently seeking proposals for locations/groups to host the conference. A retreat is being planned for Conn-Bi-Nation in

(Continued on page 9)





Get involved now !!!

Contact your Regional Organizer



(ChallengingNotions- Continued from page 8) order to establish goals for the upcoming year. Bi visibility has been increased by a regional newsletter, which is an insert for the local newsletters. conducting workshops at different conferences, sponsoring speakers such as Lani Ka'ahumanu and being represented at other queer organizations (e.g. Hartford Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Committee. statewide legislative agendas). Bis in the area are still fighting to keep the Hartford Community Center from changing back to the Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

Mid-Atlantic Region

Mid-Atlantic The Region "feverishly working to hammer down details" for its annual retreat. The tentative date for the retreat is Oct. 17-19 at Rehoboth Beach, DE. If you are interested in more information, please contact one of the regional organizers. In addition to the retreat, the region successfully completed its web site (http:// www2.ari.net/binet). Please visit them there. The new youth regional organizer, Spence Leonard, has been busy visiting a number universities in West Virginia and Virginia spreading BiNet USA throughout the land. Bi visibility in those states is sure to be on the increase.

Southeast Region

Gainesville is going through some transformations and is currently working on how to handle bi happenings in that area. The group in Orlando is alive and kicking and getting revved up to host the next annual meeting. If anyone has any suggestions or wants to help with meetings, please contact Carla. There is also a bisexual support group every 2nd Thursday at 6:30pm in the Orlando area.

Midwest Region

The Midwest region is planning a leadership retreat for March 7-9 in Ames, IA. Anyone in the region is invited but should contact Wendy Naumann at (402) 476-0314 for registration information. The retreat will cover a number of topics but will focus on skill-building and outreach ideas. The Bisexual Empowerment Conference: A United Supportive Experience (BECAUSE) will be held on the last weekend in April. in Minneapolis, MN. The theme for this year's conference is "Body Power Body Pride". Loraine Hutchins will be the keynote speaker. If you are interested in more information on this conference, please call (612) 825-0166 or e-mail because@mtn.org.

Central Region

South Central Region

Southwest Region

BiNet AZ has now concluded its first full year as the Phoenix area's only bisexual support organization. 1996 was a year of foundation building. Officers were selected. A mission statement was created and adopted. Women's and Men's Support Groups were created, and a first ever Bi Youth Support Group was founded. Networking and outreach issues were addressed through a newsletter, a web

site, and networking with other queer organizations. BiNet AZ is now working on obtaining permanent office space at the Valley of the Sun Community Center. With this new office space, the group wants to expand support groups, social events, and fundraisers. BiNet AZ is now looking for a coordinator for their social events and is planning two fundraisers: a dance marathon and a mega scavenger hunt.

Northwest Region

Pacific Coast & Islands Region

BiNet News Deadlines:

Spring (May) Apr. 1st

Summer (Aug) Jul. 1st

> Fall (Nov) Oct. 1st

Winter 98 (Feb) Dec. 1st

BiNet USA

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National Coordinators and Regional Organizers - Winter 97

National Coordinators

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National and International News

Anti-Lesbian Witch Hunt

December 12, 1996, Washington, DC. In an historic move, the Department of Justice and the US Navy have settled a lawsuit BISEXUAL brought by former Seaman Amy L. Barnes rather than defend the Navy against claims of an illegal witch hunt. Ms. Barnes sued the Navy earlier this year for wrongfully discharging her from the service and violating her constitutional rights. Judge Emmet Sullivan of the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia had been scheduled to hear motions in the case in October. The government fulfilled its obligations under the terms of the settlement today.

"This is a victory, not just for Amy Barnes, but for all service members jeopardized by the military's anti-gay policy and the witch hunts that result from it," said Kirk Childress, Staff Attorney of Service members Legal Defense Network (SLDN).

ICTLEP Appoints Another FTM to Board of Directors

Phyllis Randolph Frye, Executive Director of ICTLEP (the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy: Inc.), announces that the Board of Directors has voted to elect Mr. Shannon Minter, Esq., as its newest Director.

Mr. Minter is an FTM (female to male) transgendered man,

Staff Attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR). Recently, he costatement from NCLR and ICTLEP. "GID AND THE entitled TRANSGENDER MOVEMENT" which has received endorsements from many leaders of the lesbigatr community. Mr. his team, Ms. Lisa Middleton, a highly gender". placed and out insurance executive, will

Insurance Issues. Also to remain is Ms. award-winning filmmaker, Bruce Glawson. Martine Rothblatt, Esq., who is the past and is intended for international telecast Director of Health Law and was the author and educational use. of the ICTLEP Standards of Care.

DOCUMENTARY STARTS TAPING ON WEST COAST

television documentary Beyond Either/Or: The Fluidity of Sexual Desire. Toronto based director Bruce Glawson will be on location in Vancouver, Seattle, Portland and San Francisco, and is planning to visit other parts of Canada, and the United Today marked the turning of a corner as --States later this year.

The one hour documentary will present the series of joint calls on Capitol Hill. The compelling, amusing, and touching stories day's activities, organized by HRC's Senior of an eclectic sample of bisexual men and Policy Advocate, Nancy Buermeyer, was women, whose life journeys call into devoted to conducting basic education question conventional wisdom regarding around bi/herm/trans issues, and discussing sexuality, and celebrate the rich diversity of prospects for ENDA trans-inclusion with contemporary human relationships.

It is Glawson's intent that Beyond Either/Or Lobbyists Dana Priesing (GPac), Deb will be an insightful, entertaining, and Kolodny (BiNet USA/GPac), Nancy provocative documentary look at the much Buermeyer (HRC), Kris Pratt (HRC) and maligned, sometimes hidden, ignored or Riki Wilchins (GPac) called on a halfdismissed, and often misunderstood dozen congressional offices. The meetings capacity to be attracted, and attractive to were all constructive, and in most cases more than one gender: bisexuality.

However, Beyond Either/Or will go beyond a simple plea for tolerance of On a sobering note, the advice of most viewer to perhaps reconsider commonly sponsors, was that trans-inclusion was Mr. Minter is currently employed as the held beliefs about his or her own sexuality probably not viable at this point, and might and that of others. The film will explore the delay the bill's passage 5-10 years. Said innovative view that recognizes the Wilchins, "If this is what we're hearing authored, along with Ms. Frye, the joint complex nature of sexuality - sexuality from our ENDA friends, it may signal time that can change over the course of one's to re-evaluate our emphasis and consider lifetime -- sexuality which is not fixed, but shifting some of our resources to Hate fluid - sexuality which can not be Crimes, Psychiatric Abuse of Genderpigeonholed into confining categories of variant Children (PAGC), and Intersexed sexual desire. The intent of the film is to Genital Mutilation (IGM)." Minter's duties as Director will include all open minds and hearts about rigid health law issues, the ICTLEP Standards of definitions and expectations of sexuality The meetings marked the first held under Care, and insurance issues as have been that are destructive to us all. It is Glawson's GPac auspices since its articles of researched and presented in past issues of hope that the viewer is left with the subtle association were signed and formalized the annual ICTLEP Proceedings. As part of but astute impression that "love knows no February of 1996, and GPAC lobbyists

Navy Compensates Victim of retain her oversight with respect to Beyond Either/Or is produced by the

For further information please contact Bruce at 416/323-3860 or by email at <bglaveson@inforamp.net>. Those wishing to donate to this production kindly make your check or money order payable to 1020619 Ontario Inc. and mail to Bruce Production commences this month on the Glawson Glawson Productions, 18 Dupont Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5R 1V2

GENDERPAC & HRC LOBBY TOGETHER ON THE HILL

for the first time - the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and GenderPAC made a the bill's sponsors.

included a basic "Gender 101" for the staffers, as well as plans for return visits.

difference, to challenge and provoke the legislative assistants, including ENDA

sought to represent all the marginalized groups which could be considered within

oppression. including bisexuals, the leather community, participating," crossdressers. the intersexed transsexuals. Said a GPac spokesperson, "We're trying to cast as wide a net as possible in pursuing our motto of 'gender, Inclusion as new Clinton term affectional and racial equality."

The meetings also marked the first time a lobbyist specifically from a bisexual organization has been on the Hill representing the concerns of their community. Said Deb Kolodny of BiNet USA, the national bisexual organization (in the midst of joining GenderPAC), "Naturally we're disappointed to hear from ENDA sponsors that trans-inclusion

might harm the bill. On the other hand, we were pleased that every office expressed genuine concern about Bisexual and Transgender issues and a desire to work The Statement reads: closely with us in the future. BiNet USA is looking forward to working GenderPAC on the lobbying constituent organizing to make more inclusion of Bisexual and Transgender inclusive legislation a reality."

The meetings also covered specific ENDAinclusion wording developed by a team of HRC's Chai Feldblum, Sharon Stuart of the elected and serve the public. The 1996 Transgender Law Conference (ICTLEP), election victory is a credit to all of our hard It's Time America's (ITA) Jessica Xavier, work and participation. and GPAC's Dana Priesing. Said key teammember Jessica Xavier, "The development "Furthermore, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and inclusive was a giant step forward. Now it's and common enemies. up to the gender community to press our growing visibility on Capitol Hill, and "The Right is not exclusive in their hateful move Congressional offices closer to trans- campaigns. Transgender and Bisexual positive voting."

In summarizing the day's events, stated people are also not protected under federal HRC's Nancy Buermeyer, "Education is law. We support the inclusion of one of our strongest tools in working with Transgender and Bisexual issues in all Congress. I look forward to working with aspects of local, state and national agendas the GenderPAC to continue this vital first that address the civil rights of Gay and step. The upcoming 2nd National Gender Lesbian people. Lobby Day May 5th will provide an



their mission of fighting "gender-based excellent opportunity to continue this please contact. Stephanic Berger at transgenders, education -- I'm excited

> Bisexual and Transgender Unity and Activists call for kicks off.

In a call for unity and for the visible inclusion of bisexual and transgender* people, an Ad-hoc National Coalition of Bisexual and Transgender activists have created a Statement of Inclusion. This statement, signed by prominent leaders in the G/L/B/T movement, calls for inclusion of bisexual and transgender issues in all aspects of local, state and national agendas that address the civil and human rights of The proposal was passed on December 20 gay and lesbian people.

with "We the undersigned local, regional and and national leaders advocate the visible people. In doing this, we recognize their valuable participation in the political process. Transgender and Bisexual people vote, donate money, run for office, get

of proper ENDA language which is trans- Transgender people have common issues

people are called out by name and targeted for attack. Bisexual and Transgender

"We take this opportunity to affirm our commitment to champion the rights of all people and to defeat those who would deny basic civil rights and human dignity to anyone on the basis of sexual and gender orientation and identity."

To sign on to the Inclusion Statement or for National Gathering of GLTT and a key a complete list of signatories

about virago@slip.net or 510-601-1806.

*Transpender includes transsexuals crass-dressers: and intersexed people

Another City Daring to "different."

proposal advocating acknowledgment and guarantee of the right to be different was submitted by Colectivo Arco Iris (gay/lesbian group based in Rosario, Argentina's second city in size and population) to the local town council. The proposal is similar to the one adopted by Buenos Aires few months ago. It was supported by Amnesty International, ILGA and the local University.

and the definite text reads: discrimination involving exclusion in the name of or under the excuse of race, ethnic affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, ideology, nationality, physical appearance. psychological. economical condition or any other circumstance will be allowed... " The city promotes the removal of any and every type of obstacles that, actually restricting equality and freedom, impede a person's full development and her/his effective participation in the social, political or economical community life.

Rosario's activists celebrated the new clause, with the hope it will contribute to alleviate the hard realities currently faced lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people there. Colectivo Arco Iris is the main GLTTB organization outside Buenos Aires. It was founded in March 1994, by Pedro Paradiso and Guillermo Lovagnini, now joined by an enthusiastic and highly efficient group of young lesbians, gays and transgender people. Their current activities include: support groups (for people living with HIV/AIDS, for lesbians and transgender people), massive distribution of leaflets educating about AIDS, work projects for people with AIDS, hot line for receiving discrimination complaints and an ongoing presence at the local media, community organizations and schools. Besides. Arco Iris was the host of the I factor for its success.

Interview with: Kerry Lobel.

Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force In Lorence Hutchins



In December 1996, Loraine Hutchins interviewed the National Gav and Lesbian Task Force's newly appointed executive director, Kerry Lobel. Before coming to

Washington, DC, Kerry was a leader in the domestic violence movement, and had directed the Women's Project in Little Rock, Arkansas and also the Southern California Coalition on Battered Women. The full interview will appear in issues 12 and 13 of Anything That Moves.

What follows is a short excerpt.

L: I want to talk about the broader liberation agenda beyond identity politics. I know that identity politics are important to preserve, so there are distinct groups who know what their separate values and agendas are, and then we are able to work together. I also know that I can't stand people who say, "Well let's not be feminists, we're just humanists," or who use queer as a way to not talk about lesbian or not talk about gay or bisexual or transgender. I know this also must be something you struggle with within your own work.

K: Tremendously so. Before coming to work here (NGLTF) my primary identity work was sexual identity, women. The primary identity now is sexual orientation which has been a challenge. As you say, identity politics are important in terms of forming our own sense of culture and belonging, but our struggle has to be for social justice. It has to be a much larger equality agenda. Every one of us has to be able to bring our full selves to the table.

I'm a woman, I'm a Jew, I'm a dyke. I'm the child of working class parents. I can't separate those pieces of myself out. I think the Task Force's best work and my own best work to the table to work for social change, bisexuals and transgender people. Sometimes identity has been the way. Sometimes an issue has been the way. Sometimes a problem has been the way. But K: Absolutely, and if you look at the "Equal Kerry discusses polyamory, lesbianism as a keep us isolated from people who don't come

to completely re-structure our society to do homophobic stuff that. Often identity politics stands in L: They skipped right over that? opposition to social transformation. I'm not doing what I do so gay people can be just like K: Well, homosexuality is the downfall of everyone else. I don't want to be like Western civilization and taken for granted, everyone else. I don't want to live in a world people are there on that, but to make it even that looks like it does now. I don't want to SCARIER. Kerry Lobel said, in a press assimilate. I want to CHANGE it. I respect release, that this is a victory for bisexual and people who want to fit in, but that's just not transgender people. So if Steve marries Joan me. That is not what I want my political work and then he decides to be Susan, what is the to be. I want to change the world, to world coming to? transform it.

A little later...

K: I'm happy the Task Force has tried to bring a different perspective on families to the table. We're not looking for the mom and dad replication of family. We have blended families, families with different relationships. What is getting hard now is we're dealing This is about fundamentally changing the time we're re-defining and expanding our definition of families.

Last week I was on CNBC's "Equal Time" with Dede Myers and Bay Buchanan and this very issue was raised. "So, let's understand this, you're saying that ...people who love Bi and trans issues are going to be used more each other should be able to be married and more by gay people who want to not up to the state or me to decide who can or who want to create a schism in our society. can't, it is about two people who love each It's just going to get harder and harder for bi other." They want to understand. First we're and trans people. saying that we want same-sex marriage. They asked, "What's there to say that next year you won't be back and saying that Susan wants to K: Yes you are being more out, but also marry John and Jill?" My response is, "We because people now understand gay and are talking about people who love each other lesbian people vote and give big money to having the freedom to marry." Which I think presidential campaigns. There is a certain is an appropriate answer.

L: BiNet USA and NGLTF need to think about this together a lot and support each other so we aren't divided as the opposition

space where people can bring their full selves scapegoated in the marriage debate are

L: You noticed that?

while I think it is important for us to try to agreements so that they can go visit each gay organizations. maintain our individual identities, we have to other in the hospital or prison or deal with, if

be willing to understand that no one has 'just we have a child together, being able to put in one.' We emphasize different identities, but my will that if I die you take care of it, I mean there has to be a commitment to move that is ceding that they are willing to do. But everyone forward. That is what drives me; their whole criticism was, "Kerry Lobel, in what has fueled every piece of work I've her statement on marriage said, this is a done. I want to create a society where victory for gay, lesbian and BISEXUAL and everyone can do what it is they need to do to TRANSGENDER people." It went right to be able to have full lives. We're going to have the fear of bi and trans people. The

This is fundamentally where the discussion of same-sex marriage is heading, and if any of the organizations working on this issue who think we can do it without a collegial relationship with the bisexual transgender communities is deluded because that is where the scapegoating is happening.

with the same-sex marriage fight at the same culture in which we live. It is a long process, and it is a continuum. Yes, we identify legal battles or legislative battles that are win or lose. But, as long as any one group can be used as a wedge to splinter, we have to address that.

regardless of their sexual orientation, and it's assimilate into existing society and by others

L: Because we're being more out.

political power the gay and lesbian community is perceived to have and that the bi and trans communities are not perceived to have. However, people are in for a big shock. Many of the folks who people think are gay or lesbian are really bi and trans identified. politically, has been where I have created a K: We do, because the people who are getting. One day these bi and trans people will be out and those people's worlds (and assumptions) will be turned upside down. I welcome that day, and it will happen soon.

sometimes our identity politics has served to Time" tape, they're willing to concede that choice, spirituality, and how her commitment same-sex couples who are in loving to bi and trans inclusion has affected her from our identity or our community. So, relationships should be able to have legal relationship with other national lesbian and

by Land Ka allumants Send all of your Bose sual Sightness a alolia a stip net or Lant Kasalumanni e a Billat 381 Casara Succi 122 8f (Y 94111 alin, stellings

The Bisexual Sightings from the last several months of 1996 and early 1997 are an assortment of gems. Thanks to everyone for forwarding some of these items.

SANDWICH WILL BE CAST OFF BY GAY MASSES. by columnist Signorile. "Without Michelangelo consulting the rest of us mere mortals. [the] National Gay Lesbian Task Force suddenly rename us 'the gay-lesbian-bisexualtransgendered movement' or, as one of NGLTF's leaders recently said in a press release, 'the g/l/b/t community.' Sounds like a sandwich. NGLTF's often dated and unrealistic political dogma will be cast off by the gay masses in due time." Seen: Out magazine, Fall 96

Ring, ring! Hey Signorile, it's the clue phone and it's for you. Get a grip, big guy, I have to say you are the one who is often dated and unrealistic. The Right targets all of us and has no problem saying bisexual or transgender. This petty divisive bullshit feeds right into their hands. Your cutting edge is a little dull.

DEMI CAUGHT IN LOVE ROMP WITH GIRLFRIEND by Marc Cetner & Michael Glynn National Enquirer Largest Circulation of Any Paper In America "Demi Moore has been caught with a sexy girlfriend in a red-hot make-out session -- a grope-fest so steamy it stunned even a veteran newsman who eyewitnessed the sizzling encounter. During 15 minutes of raw passion, a butch-looking Demi fondled and necked with hot-looking redhead Laura Day in a backroom at New York's Beekman Bar and Books Club," says respected New York Post columnist Neal Travis. Demi doesn't consider herself gay but she does admit to being attracted to women -including Laura. "I love Laura and think she's one of the most beautiful women I've ever known," Demi told an insider. "Women are so complex, so in touch with their inner being. That's what I love most about them and that's why I'm not afraid to show my feelings when I feel close to

another woman." Demi's spokesman Allen Cliff couldn't be happier." Seen: 11/26/96

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED KATE lesbian. When Creating Change conference people."Seen: 10/26/96, personal e-mail attendees were asked (see cover story) "to remember to say the words 'transgendered And this is only the opening paragraph! we have all spoken out for you. Please Bisexual Veterans, Inc., Boston, MA. show your solidarity with bisexual, transgendered, and intersexed people who GAY VETS SUE AMERICAN LEGION

counted Kate" political action waiting to them.' coming to your town?

OBITUARIES PAGE SHANA BLESSING 34, the first director of the Cleveland Lesbian-Gay Center, was found dead November 5th in the garage of her parents' suburban Cleveland home. overdose. Under her direction in the mid-1980s, the Center expanded its scope, changing its name from the Gay Education and Awareness Resources Foundation. Until her death, Blessing worked as a quality improvement specialist for the Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc. She is survived by her partner, David Steingard, (Source: Gay People's Chronicle) Seen: 12/20/96, Washington Blade, DC gay lesbian newspaper

Loraine says, "Was she bi, or what? And reminded me that another bisexual was the first director of a Gay/Lesbian Center in

Hartford, CT. Alex got the center to change it's name to include bisexual, but they changed the name back after she left directorship.

NO DEAR FOR DORNAN, from a letter to then Representative Bob Dornan from Arneson. vet Eichhorn told the Enquirer: "Neal Travis extraordinaire; "Representative Dornan; I obviously got it wrong. The story about have omitted the word 'Dear,' because it is Demi and Laura Day is nonsense. They're a term of endearment that I reserve for very good friends... " Bruce (Willis) those I hold in high esteem. I cannot apply this adjective to you, due to your lengthy and hateful record of attacks upon gay, bisexual and transgender

and bisexual,' to learn to understand our For those who don't know, Cliff is the Vice issues as your own, to speak out for us as President of New England Gay, Lesbian, &

are fighting for the rights of all queer by Harriet Chiang, "A civil rights suit was people, and stand with us now." Lesbian filed Friday in San Francisco Superior comic/activist Kate Clinton didn't budge Court by the largely gay Alexander from her seat. Standing next to her was her Hamilton Post, which was granted a charter longtime partner Urvashi Vaid, former by the American Legion in 1985. The Executive Director of NGLTF. Seen: group's 275 members claim in their complaint that for the past 13 years, the statewide organization has 'opposed them, Seems to me there is a "Stand up and be harassed them and discriminated against The Alexander Hamilton Post happen at her performances. When is she members say they are bringing the suit as a class action on behalf of about 2.1 million gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender veterans who they estimate are eligible for membership with their post. They are seeking \$50 million in damages, based on the \$9 in membership dues they would have collected from each eligible member. Blessing had committed suicide by a drug as well as an order preventing the California division of the American Legion from continuing its discriminatory practices. The Hamilton Post allege that American Legion state officials thwarted their attempts to draw new members by prohibiting them from placing an ad in the California Legionnaire newspaper, the statewide publication for members. Instead, the complaint states, the American Legion distributed anti-gay literature and videotane."Seen: anti-gay Francisco Chronicle, 12/29/96

> Stay tuned. An army of lovers is hard to beat, and these folks are vets!

IT'S A GOOD THING

By Yosenio Lewis

Sometimes it's difficult to remember why I chose to be out as a Female to Male Transsexual activist and to willingly encounter confusion, frustration, and prejudice. Then I remember my experiences at the 1996 LLEGO (National Latino/Latina Lesbian and Gay Organization) Conference in October and the 1996 NGLTF (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force) "Creating Change" Conference in November, and I know why I'm an activist, a public figure. Both conferences provided me with opportunities to recommit myself to "the movement(s)" in which I'm involved. Both conferences also allowed me to meet some quite fine people who have taught me the true meaning of the word "ally."

At the opening plenary of the LLEGO Conference I sat through a monotonous speech by Patsy Fleming, the then White House AIDS Policy Coordinator. I remained politely silent and feigned interest in Ms. Fleming's speech, not really knowing what she was saying until I heard the word "Transgenderal." My ears perked right up -this was not a word I'd ever heard before and as it was describing me, I thought I'd better start listening. Unfortunately, Ms. Fleming did not grace her audience with a definition of "Transgenderal" but continued to use the word in succeeding sentences. I quickly scanned the room, searching the faces of other Transsexuals and Transgendered people, hoping that they had the wisdom that I lacked. Surely they had heard this word before and knew what it meant. Surely they would have smiles of recognition, even pride on their faces as they felt ever so acknowledged by a White House official. Sadly, my peers appeared as confused as I was and mouthed the words, "What the hell is a Transgenderal?" We kept waiting for the clarity we were sure would come our way; it never did. And what was at first a funny, unexpected little blip in the day turned into an infuriating and motivating event. The uneasiness that enveloped me as I listened to this (I'm sure well-meaning) woman turned into anger as I realized that no one who was on the panel with Ms. Fleming, no one from LLEGO was going to correct her use of "poetic license" to create a word that struck me as quite offensive.

After Ms. Fleming's speech it was time interrupt oppression Liaison to the Lesbian and Gay consistent in truly being inclusive. community. Mr. Socarides apparently vigilant throughout the conference.

you don't have a penis." Bisexuals were does pay off! similarly objectified or sexualized. Our others for not upholding two of the identified namely to be allies for each other and to

for Richard Socarides to speak. Mr. happening. Since then I have had many Socarides was the former White House contacts with the E.D. and he has been

took his title very seriously, as during his The victor with LLEGO bolstered my 15+ minute speech he never once used confidence and I decided to tackle the issue the words Bisexual, Transgendered or of Mr. Socarides. Luckily I'd met someone Transsexual. This during a conference who was the New Mexico Lesbian and Gay that billed itself as being sponsored by an State Representative for the Clinton/Gore organization dedicated to full inclusion! reelection campaign and who was going to After the "Transgenderal" incident, this meet with Mr. Socarides the last day of the deliberate exclusion was just a bit too conference. She had been in the audience much. I could no longer contain my anger during my protest of exclusion and invited and stood up, holding my hand up in an me to the campaign headquarters to speak effort to be noticed. Neither Mr. to Mr. Socarides. I jumped at the chance Socarides nor anyone on the panel and made sure I was accompanied by other acknowledged me, After Mr. Socarides' Transgendered people and by Bisexuals. speech was completed, a LLEGO staff We were warmly greeted at the meeting, member, who was introducing the next but then ignored again as the conversation panelist finally glanced my way and among various campaigners focused on ho asked why I was standing up. Flush with to capture the "Gay and Lesbian" vote. Not anger and adrenaline, I called up the willing to be cast aside again, I spoke up audience and the plenary speakers to that there were others in the community recognize that Bisexuals, Transsexuals, whose votes were also important to get. and Transgendered people were in the The silence in the room was overwhelming audience, were workshop presenters and -- they just couldn't conceive that there was participants, constituted many of the anyone else that they needed to pay volunteers and that similar to the attention to. Again Bi's and TG's had to Lesbians and Gays Mr. Socarides spoke stand up for themselves and we did so, so eloquently about, also "paid taxes, arguing with others in the room about their were voters and died from AIDS." The lack of inclusion. The upshot of the applause from the audience and smiles of meeting was that after much badgering by relief from my peers encouraged me to be me, Mr. Socarides agreed to meet with a contingent of Bisexuals and Transgendered people during the NGLTF's "Creating I quickly found out that had to maintain Change" Conference, which was to begin that vigilance. Conference participants the day after the elections. I was seemed to experience no discomfort as completely shocked that a man who they made statements such as "You pass appeared not to even by able to utter the so well for a man trying to be a woman," words was now saying he was going to or "I thought you were a real man, but meet with Bi and Trans people. Persistence

collective anger culminated in my calling "Creating Change" seemed like a dream a Bisexual and Transgendered People's come true -- 2,000 activists "fighting the Caucus, where we decided to demand good fight" and knowing we all had to be a time at the closing plenary to inform the part of it. Yet not long after I arrived at the "inclusive" organization of just what we conference the Biphobia and Transphobia had been experiencing. To LLEGO's became apparent. This time I had more credit, they gave us the time without people around me willing to stand up and hesitation and even had staff taking notes be heard and it wasn't long before yet and recording the speech. I read a five another Bi and Trans Caucus was minute speech that detailed the Bi- and developed. Under the guidance of Bisexual Trans-phobia we had been subjected to activist Lani Ka'ahumanu we organized a during the conference and challenged the speakout that occurred during a plenary audience and LLEGO to be true allies to session (plenaries are definitely the time to us. After my speech the Executive get people's attention!). In an amazing Director of LLEGO chastised himself and show of unity and presence, all self-Bisexual, underlying themes of the conference, Transsexual and Intersexed people stood in

(Continued on page 18)



Two International Bi Activists

by Fritz Klein

Resource Guide. It has more than all the other BiWorld countries in the world combined.

someone who wants that to happen.

Let me give you a personal example. When I moved to San Diego from New York in 1982, This brings me to the title of the article. Two there was no bisexual group in existence here of the participants of this workshop were He is 27 years old and is currently employed at all. Together with 3 other bi's we began a Linda Eklof and Maurice Snellen. small group meeting once a month in my office group room. It took a number of years In meeting Linda and speaking to her, it His personal involvement is that he has of holding continuous monthly meetings and became obvious that she is one of these always joined organizations that fit his having monthly pot luck parties before a core germinal activists that single handedly creates interests. When he found out that he was group of people came to view the Bi Forum a bi culture. In her case, it is her work and bisexual, he sought out a Dutch bi as their "home" social group.

At that point, Regina Reinhardt took over the of Finland. leadership role for the next eight years. She put in time and effort to make this group one Linda is 23 years old and lives in Helsinki. Some of his many roles are: being the showing up every month at the support glbt communities are: meeting, have around 30 people coming to the monthly party, and have given birth to • BiPol, the political arm of San Diego's bi activists, as well as having a separate woman's bi group.

I have gone into detail to show you how it • requires at least one dedicated person to make things happen.

The same is true, of course, in other cities as well as in other countries.

Last May the international bi community had its fourth International Conference in Berlin. In October of 1995 I visited Helsinki. It was It was the most successful one yet. There Linda who organized two separate bi events His were close to 400 paid participants of which 75 were from places other than Germany and representing eighteen different countries.

One of the more important workshops that meeting and there were again over 30 people movement is such a relatively small one took place was the one dealing with in the audience interested in listening to the (compared to the gay and lesbian ones), it is international communication. International results of my latest study on bi activities. cooperation was strengthened and expanded. It was decided that the Internet would have In talking to many of the bisexuals in people throughout the world having similar bi three new and different bi activities.

There is no doubt that USA has the largest 1) a new section of the Bisexual Options web had the effect of making Finland a hub of bi amount of bi groups as can be seen in the Bi page http://www.bisexual.org/ will feature activities and the leading bi center of all the International News correspondents of different countries. 2) a bi international list was This also means that there are more bi <bi>bi <bi/>biworld@linker.tdc.globalxs.nl> and 3) an activists in the USA. In order for a bi group to IRC channel will be used by people from In the same vein, Maurice Snellen of Holland be formed it is necessary for there to be different countries to chat. This occurs on the has a major bi influence in his country. It is Second Saturday of each month (10 pm, his dedication and the many hours of hard Greenwich Mean Time).

of the largest and oldest bisexual groups in She is in training to qualify to teach physics coordinator for the Rotterdam bi group, being the USA. We now have 40 to 50 people and math. Her personal involvement in the on the editorial board of the Dutch bi

- leader of the Helsinki mixed bi group
- leader of SETA Helsinki educational/schooling group
- vice-president of Helsinki area SETA News. board
- member of National SETA board

lists: bisexu-l, uk-bi, bi-pagan and a member Again it was his work and dedication that, Digital Queers).

for the weekend I was there. The first <maurice@linker.tdc.globalxs.nl> consisted of members of the outreach to schools section and the speakers bureau. She One of the reasons I am writing about these also arranged to have a Saturday night two people is that since the bisexual

Helsinki, it became obvious that it is Linda's concerns, with similar organizing problems zeal and dedication to the bi movement that

by Scandinavian countries.

established: Her email address is: da@seta.fi>

work that helps The Netherlands be a major player in Europe's bisexual activities.

as a helpdesk operator for the computer company of the Dutch Tourist Organization. enthusiasm that has spawned a bi presence organization. He found that it was in need of that seems to extend even beyond the borders people to be on the board, and immediately offered his services.

> magazine, Bi Niews, which comes out quarterly, in charge of the BiWorld Internet organizing the monthly area International chats as well as being the Dutch correspondent for the International BiWorld

Knowing that I was coming to Europe in October, he had asked me if I wanted to give She is the only Finnish representative of a talk to the National Dutch Bi Conference, BiWorld and a longtime subscriber of the which was being held in Utrecht, Holland. in Digital Diversity (the UK version of together with a hard working national team of committee members, helped make this gathering a success.

> address is:

necessary to not only think of your local bisexual concerns but know that there are

(Continued on page 18)

(Kerry Lobel Interview continued from page 16) front of the room (fully one third of the audience!) while a speech was read about phobias, inclusion or lackthereof, and chances for really creating change. It was a powerful moment that invigorated me and helped prepare me (and others) for next hurdle, which was the meeting with Mr. Socarides.

I think there was trepidation on both sides about what would happen during the meeting. As it turned out, all of us who attended learned quite a bit about each other's points of view and came away from meeting better informed recommitted to fighting for nothing less than full inclusion. These experiences are the reason I'm an out Female to Male Transsexual activist, they are the reasons I willingly encounter confusion, frustration and prejudice. More often than not, I am encountering incredible and determination. satisfaction I'm encountering a true sense of being an ally and having allies who realize "their" fight is "out" fight and vice versa. I'm realizing that I really do make a difference. And I'm realizing that the Bi and Trans movements, while having some differing components, are basically the same and we need to work together. I'm realizing the power in numbers and in organization. I'm realizing the need for a Bi and Trans coalition. I'm realizing the changes we can make together. I'm realizing ... and that's a good thing, Martha!

(Two International Activists Continued from page 17) and successes.

BiNet USA is our national organization and this publication is seen by all its members. It provides us with ideas, support and help on with the lobbying efforts of the Human ference or the lobbying effort, contact Riki the local, regional and national levels.

For me personally I have found it extremely exciting and wonderfully stimulating to know that not only do we have other like minded bisexuals in the many American cities and towns but to also find similar folks all over the world from Australia and New Zealand to the United Kingdom and Mexico.

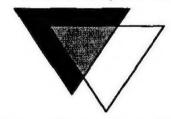
In closing let me remind you that in one year's time, namely in 1998, we will be having the Fifth International Bi Conference in Boston. Watch for the dates and registration details in this newsletter. See you there.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/ MEETINGS

7th Annual **BiNet USA Meeting**

and Bi Day at Disney World

BiNet USA Meeting June 6th & 8th, 1997 Bi Day at Disney World June 7th, 1997 In Orlando, Florida



(Continued from page 6)

"This year it seems to have a more 'in your Boyz True Spirit Conference held over the face' visibility and education component to weekend. it," says Green. "While legislation is a key ICTLEP focus, it's not necessarily the entire agenda. <ictlep@aol.com> We're going to the Hill to educate; they are going to see more of us. Issues are coming May lobbying days are planned for May 5 to the surface that they won't be able to and 6, 1997. Currently, plans are in the avoid anymore." Green says that because works for an activists conference on May of issues like DOMA (Defense of Marriage 4th, whose agenda is still being decided, Act), AIDS and managed health care, all of The evening of May 4th, lobbyist/activists which have deeply affected the transgender will be getting together as an entire group community, "We are not quiet anymore."

and bisexual activists, that this work should tact pages for info). be an inclusive lesbigatr effort." This event is also timed specifically to do that legwork. These two lobbying days are not only an necessary in order to make the fourth na- opportunity for some hands-on lobbying tional transgender event, scheduled for and coalition building between the bi and May 1997, an even larger success in its trans community. "It is an opportunity," work to further educate the new Congress. says Wilchins, "to tell Congress that we A pre-lobby training will help lobbyists get have votes and rights and we're here on the familiar with some of the themes to be national scene to pursue Congress just like discussed the following day. The lobbying any other legitimate group." is scheduled for February 24th and 25th,

which immediately follows the American For more information contact 713/777-8452

to give out lobbying assignments and materials. If you are interested in getting in-"February's Lobby Day is timed to meld volved in the planning of the activist con-Rights Campaign (HRC)," states Phyllis at <212-riki@pipeline.com> BiNet USA Frye of the International Conference on will also be involved in the planning and Transgender Law and Employment Policy lobbying effort. You can contact Deb (ICTLEP). "We will be there to educate Kolodny for lobbying or Stephanie Berger both members of Congress and lesbian, gay for the activist conference (Please see con-

Classifieds



National Resources

International Directory of Bisexual Groups now available!!!

Edited by Robyn Ochs and published by the Bisexual Resource Center, this issue has new listings and includes bisexual and lesbian/gay/bisexual groups in 18 countries and over 40 states. You can get your copy by sending \$11.95 to BRC, PO Box 639. Cambridge, MA 02140

Funding

The Bisexual Advisory Board of CA Institute of Contemporary Arts (C.I.C.A.) announces that grants (\$200 to \$1,500) are available for projects related to bisexuality, for example: publications, academic research, seed money for new Bi organizations, community outreach projects, etc.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis and will be reviewed every 4 months. Send for application to: Bi Adv. Board, C.I.C.A., 4545 Park Boulevard, # 207, San Diego, CA 92116, USA

Personals

Bi Latina, 29, poet, artist, singer/songwriter interested in writing to Bi men and women to talk about art, blues and who we are. If you are sincere and witty please write: Ellisa S. Gutie'rrez, 1153 W Magnolia Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92411

Classifier AD information and Guidelines

These Classified Ada are published free to BiNet USA members, and are placed on an "available space" basis. Ads other than those in the Organizations section will be published in one (1) issue and then automatically deleted unless renewed by the advertiser. Ads may be placed in one of several categories: National Resources, Personals, Prison Pen Pals, Calls for Submissions, For Sale. If your Ad does not fit one of these categories, make a suggestion. All personal information will be held in confidence, with the exception of releasing mailing address or phone number as requested as part of the Ad text.

BiNet News reserves the right to edit or reject any Ad, and shall not be held responsible for any errors in publication. Ads which contain blatantly crude or sexist language will not be accepted.

BiNet USA and/or BiNet News is not responsible for claims made in any advertisement. BiNet USA and/or BiNet News is not responsible for individual actions or behavior in the placement or response to any Advertisement. So be smart when answering any advertisement.

Prison Pen Pals

Incarcerated white male ISO a very Glasscock #107193, Kentucky State 863-8197. Penitentiary, PO Box 128 6-A-10, Submission deadline: March 31st, 1997. Eddyville, KY 42038

Submissions

MALE LUST!!: Submissions wanted for an anthology about male sexuality. We seek non-fiction essays which We are looking for non-fiction, fiction, address political and theoretical issues as well as autobiography, poetry, visual art and erotic fiction which more directly connect readers with our personal and emotional lives as men (a small number of essays by women will also be included).

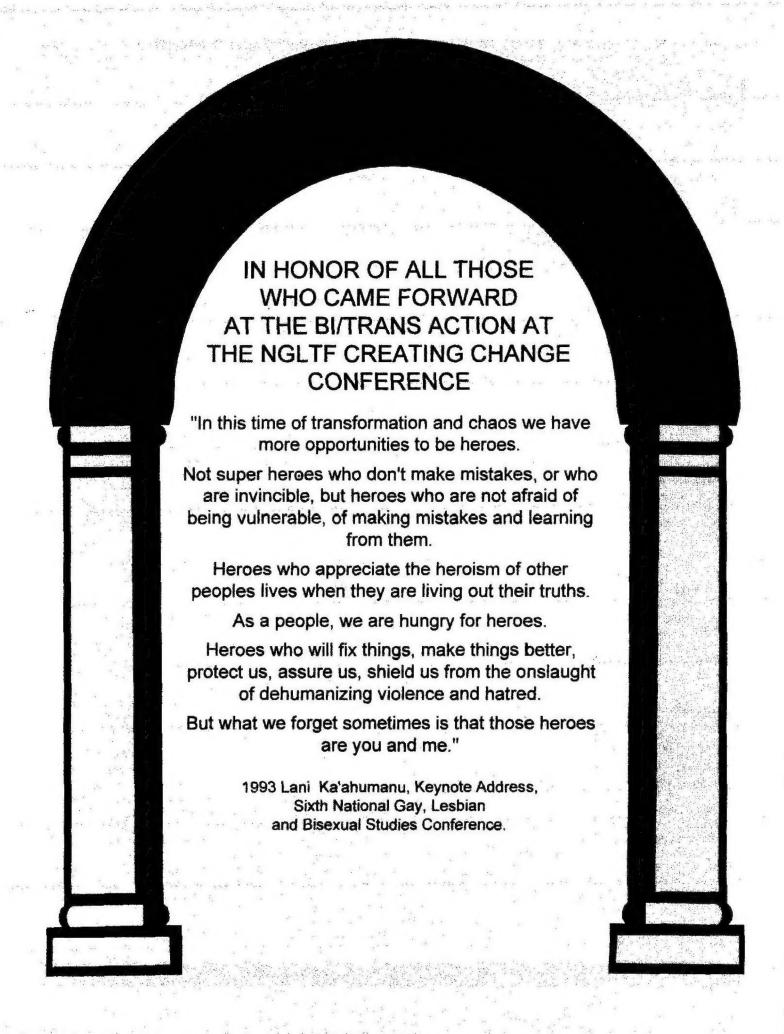
We seek writings on male lust in relation to a variety of other topics, including: masculinity, race/class/ethnicity, sexual orientation, transgendered experiences, aging, disability, pornography and the industry, S/M and unconventional sexuality's, feminism, HIV/AIDS, sexual abuse/rape, and political, social and emotional realities of men's sexual desire and its expression.

Submissions may be emailed to kerwyna@igc.apc.org, sent on a 3.5" MAC or PC disk (MS Word

unformatted), or typed double-spaced. Please do not send originals if sending artwork. Be sure to include a cover sheet special love, a caring person or persons with your name, address, phone#, and a who wish to get to know me. I'm Bi and brief (30 word) biography. Also please am looking for the same, a couple or a include a SASE if email is unavailable. single person who wants to be a couple. Send submissions to the above email or to My age is 27, 6, 175lbs, Blk hair, Br. PO Box 424195, SF, CA 94142-4195. For eyes. Soon to be released. Hays more information, call Kerwin at (415)

Fishnet, the on-line World Wide Web magazine of Blowfish (the mail-order erotica catalog), is looking for writing about sex.

and-if it's really, really good-poetry. Content can be straight, lesbian, gay, bi, trans, poly, SM, vanilla, whatever. Any topic having to do with sex, sexuality, gender, body image, and related issues will be considered. Fishnet is polymorphously perverse; as long as it's legal, we aren't picky. We're primarily looking for pieces of 750-1500 words. Payment ranges between \$25 and \$75 per piece, depending on length and various other considerations. You get an additional 50% if you take your other pay in Blowfish products rather than cash. Submissions may be sent to Fishnet, c/o Blowfish, 2261 Market St. #284, San spiriniality/addiction. We are interested Francisco, CA 94114. Please include a selfin any and all topics that address the addressed stamped envelope, and indicate whether you want the copy returned. Submissions can also be faxed to 415/282-1618, or e-mailed to greta@blowfish.com.



"BiNet News." BiNet News., winter 1997. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, link.gale.com/apps/doc/FVZYDF097550569/AHSI? u=ubcolumbia&sid=bookmark-AHSI. Accessed 30 Dec. 2024.